<u>MONIGOMERT COUNTT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</u> <u>STAFF REPORT</u>			
Address:	9220 Damascus Hills Lane, Damascus	Meeting Date:	3/2/2022
Resource:	Master Plan Site #11/21	Report Date:	2/23/2022
A 1 • /	(Rezin Bowman Farm)	Public Notice:	2/16/2022
Applicant:	Daniel Ferenczy (Sigi Koko, Agent)	Tax Credit:	Partial
Review:	Preliminary Consultation	Staff:	Michael Kyne
Permit Number	: N/A		

Preliminary Consultation <u>MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</u> <u>STAFF REPORT</u>

PROPOSAL: Comprehensive building rehabilitation, alterations, and new addition

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the applicant make any revisions based upon the HPC's comments and return with a HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

SIGNIFICANCE:	Master Plan Site #11/21, Rezin Bowman Farm
STYLE:	Farmstead
DATE:	c. 1827-1939

Excerpt from Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment:

The Rezin Bowman Farm was established at the headwaters of Great Seneca Creek. The farmstead is significant for its collection of buildings that represent an evolution of construction. By 1850, Aden Bowman (1787-1868) owned 520 acres of land and resided on this farm. He built the bank barn sometime after he acquired this land in 1827. Typical of successful farmers of the era, he grew a principal crop of tobacco, had diverse livestock, and grew corn, oats and wheat. His son, Rezin H. inherited the farm that he maintained through the century. The center cross gable dwelling represents a house type that was popular in Montgomery County from the post-Civil War era through the early 20th century. Claude Burdette continued the farm by introducing dairy cows, housed in the 16-cow dairy barn built by 1939.



Fig. 1: Subject property.

PROPOSAL:

The applicant proposes comprehensive building rehabilitation, alterations, and a new addition at the subject property.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES:

When reviewing alterations and new construction at Master Plan Sites several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include *Montgomery County Code Chapter 24A (Chapter 24A)*, the *Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment (Amendment)*, and *the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards)*. The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8

- (a) The commission shall instruct the director to deny a permit if it finds, based on the evidence and information presented to or before the commission that the alteration for which the permit is sought would be inappropriate, inconsistent with or detrimental to the preservation, enhancement or ultimate protection of the historic site or historic resource within an historic district, and to the purposes of this chapter.
- (b) The commission shall instruct the director to issue a permit, or issue a permit subject to such conditions as are found to be necessary to ensure conformity with the purposes and requirements of this chapter, if it finds that:
 - (1) The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of an historic site or historic resource within an historic district; or

- (2) The proposal is compatible in character and nature with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural features of the historic site or the historic district in which an historic resource is located and would not be detrimental thereto or to the achievement of the purposes of this chapter; or
- (3) The proposal would enhance or aid in the protection, preservation and public or private utilization of the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district in a manner compatible with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural value of the historic site or historic district in which an historic resource is located; or
- (4) The proposal is necessary in order that unsafe conditions or health hazards be remedied; or
- (5) The proposal is necessary in order that the owner of the subject property not be deprived of reasonable use of the property or suffer undue hardship; or
- (6) In balancing the interests of the public in preserving the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district, with the interests of the public from the use and benefit of the alternative proposal, the general public welfare is better served by granting the permit.
- (c) It is not the intent of this chapter to limit new construction, alteration or repairs to any 1 period or architectural style.

Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment

The Amendment includes the following statement regarding the Rezin Bowman Farm:

The setting includes the dwelling house, corn crib, bank barn, dairy barn, and milk house. Since the dwelling house has had many alterations, additional changes should be reviewed with leniency by the Historic Preservation Commission. The property may include a cemetery, described in Aden Bowman's 1868 will.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

STAFF DISCUSSION:

The subject property (addressed 9190 Damascus Road, when designated to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation as part of the *Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment* in 2009) is an early 19th to early 20th century farmstead. The farmstead consists of a c. 1827 bank barn, c. 1939 dairy barn, corn crib, milk house, and a late 19th to early 20th century farmhouse. As stated in the *Amendment*,

the house has experienced extensive previous alterations. Historic preservation staff worked with the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and Department of Permitting Services (DPS) to issue an abatement order for the house in Spring 2021. Housing code inspectors found nine (9) violations to be addressed. Notably, the house was condemned and found unfit for human habitation.



Fig. 2: Site map, with structures labeled.

The applicant purchased the property in Summer 2021, with the intention of rehabilitating the farmstead, including the condemned house. The current proposal includes the following alterations:

- Extend the foundation of the existing rear addition 5' x 6' to accommodate a proposed new mudroom entrance.
- Rebuild a former rear deck, with the new proposed deck being 12' x 24'.
- Replace the existing sheathing and wooden clapboard siding with lime plaster.
- Remove the existing rear addition roof and alter the rear addition, creating a two-story rear addition with living (moss and succulent covered) roof.

Staff is generally supportive of the applicant's proposal, particularly the rear addition extension and alterations to the existing rear addition and roof. As noted, the house has experienced many alterations in the past, and the addition to be altered is a non-original/non-historic feature. Staff finds that these work items will not alter or remove character-defining features and/or materials of the subject property, in

accordance with *Standards* #2 and #9. Further, these alterations could be removed in the future, leaving the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment unimpaired, per *Standard* #10.

Staff seeks the HPC's guidance regarding the proposed siding replacement. While the *Amendment* states that the HPC should review changes to the house with leniency, due to its extensive previous alterations, the house is a Gothic Revival-influenced farmhouse with center cross gable, which was popular in the county from the post-Civil War era to the early 20th century. Houses of this style typically have wooden clapboard siding, and staff considers the siding to be a character-defining feature. Removal of the siding and replacement with new wooden clapboard siding in kind is the correct and typical preservation approach for a house of this architectural type. Lime plaster is an atypical exterior treatment in Montgomery County, which is comparable to a pebble dashed stucco treatment of the early twentieth century, or lime plaster over stone or wattle and daub for earlier 18th century farmsteads. The treatment is more similar to construction methods common to Pennsylvania or the Upper Mid-Atlantic rather than to Maryland or the Potomac River Valley Region. If approved this work item would not qualify for historic preservation tax credits. It would also potentially contravene *Standard #2*.

Questions for the HPC:

- Are there any concerns regarding the proposed alterations to the existing non-original/nonhistoric rear addition and/or the construction of the green roof?
- If it is unable to be repaired, should the existing wooden clapboard siding be replaced in kind, with consideration given to both the language in the *Amendment* and the relevant *Standards*?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the applicant make any revisions based upon the HPC's comments and return with a HAWP application.

MERL	For Staff only: HAWP# ⁹⁸¹⁸⁴⁸
APPLICATIO	DATE ASSIGNED
HISTORIC AREA W	
HISTORIC PRESERVATION 301.563.3400	
APPLICANT:	
Name: Daniel Ferenczy	E-mail:
Address: 636 River Road	E-mail: daniel.ferenczy@gmail.com City: Coxsackie, NY Zip: 12192 Tax Account No.: 03815944
Daytime Phone: 907-750-8306	Tax Account No.: 03815944
AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable):	
_{Name:} <mark>Sigi Koko</mark>	E-mail: sigikoko@buildnaturally.com
Address: 1376 W. Woodbine Road	City: <u>Fawn Grove, PA</u> Zip: <u>17321</u>
Daytime Phone: 202-302-3055	Contractor Registration No.:
LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE: MIHP # of Histori	_{c Property} 11/021-000A
Is the Property Located within an Historic District? $-\gamma$	/es/District Name No/Individual Site Name <u>Rezin Bowman Farm_</u> ental Easement on the Property? If YES, include a
Are other Planning and/or Hearing Examiner Approvals (Conditional Use, Variance, Record Plat, etc.?) If YES, in supplemental information.	
Building Number: 9220 Street: Dal	mascus Hills Lane
Town/City: Damascus Nearest Cros	s Street:
Lot: 119 Block: Subdivision: _	
TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: See the checklist on Pa for proposed work are submitted with this applica be accepted for review. Check all that apply:	tion. Incomplete Applications will not Shed/Garage/Accessory Structure
New Construction ✓ Deck/Porch ✓ Addition □ Fence □ Demolition □ Hardscape/Lands □ Grading/Excavation ✓ Roof	Solar Tree removal/planting cape Window/Door ✓ Other: Siding
I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the for and accurate and that the construction will comply wit agencies and hereby acknowledge and accept this to b	h plans reviewed and approved by all necessary



Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures, landscape features, or other significant features of the property:

The 9.8 acre "Rezin Bowman Farm" is one mile southeast of Damascus, secluded in the headwater valley of the Great Seneca Creek. The property is down a long paved driveway at the bottom of a dead-end street. The site is encircled by forest conservation land. The terrain of the farm gently slopes to a man-made pond. Buildings include a 20th C house, a 19th C bank barn and corn crib, and a 1930s dairy barn with milk house and silos.

The farmhouse is abandoned, gutted and condemned. It faces north, looking up the driveway. It is a roughly square dimension, arranged by "L" shaped intersecting roof gables with a lean-to addition inside the "L." The house has a metal roof, a wrap-around porch and clapboard siding. The foundation is in three parts: a small stone basement, larger stone crawlspace, and a newer cement block space.

Description of Work Proposed: Please give an overview of the work to be undertaken:

We intend to salvage the neglected structure and remodel it into a family home. We are committed to retaining the familiar farmhouse appearance and to keep existing functional material in place or re-purposed on site. All work will be done with traditional, honest building materials that sustainable, local, and long lasting: stone, timber, clay and lime plaster, and straw insulation. Our "natural building" architect is the world famous Sigi Koko, who has over 20 years experience and has completed hundreds of custom "natural built" homes. Our builder is Tim Stull, a local natural builder with experience working on historically preserved houses.

We are proposing the following:

- 1. Extend Rear Foundation by 30 sq ft for mudroom entrance, and re-attach a 12'x24' rear deck.
- 2. Remove deteriorated unpainted wood siding; Replace with traditional, timeless lime plaster.
- 3. Remove the patchy rear roof and rotted frame; replace with uniform two-story frame / living roof.

Adjacent and Confronting Properties:

Gaithersburg, MD 20882

9105	Bonny	Brook	Court
9109	Bonny	Brook	Court
9108	Bonny	Brook	Court
9215	Damascus	Hills	Lane
9203	Damascus	Hills	Lane
9214	Damascus	Hills	Lane

Work Item 1: Rear Addition	
Description of Current Condition: is pretty good. A deck used to exist there, but has since been removed.	Proposed Work: Extend the rear kitchen foundation 5'x6' to accommodate an insulated mudroom entrance. Rebuild the former rear deck to approximately 12'x24'.
Work Item 2: Siding	
Description of Current Condition: The wood siding and Celotex foam sheathing is in disrepair.	Proposed Work: Replace the sheathing and wood siding with lime plaster. The lime plaster is an optimal exterior siding for natural building, as it is breathable and adheres excellently to organic structural and insulation material, such as wood, stone, and straw.

Work Item 3: Rear roof	
Description of Current Condition: Broken skylights and a hole from a removed chimney. The supporting frame of the back half of the house is mostly rotten.	^{Proposed Work:} Remove the rear roof and rotted frame and replace with a two-story structure and living roof.

HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

	Required Attachments I. Written	2. Site Plan	3. Plans/	4. Material	5. Photographs	6. Tree Survey	7. Property
Proposed Work	Description		Elevations	Specifications			Owner Addresses
New Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Additions/ Alterations	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Demolition	*	*	*		*		*
Deck/Porch	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fence/Wall	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Driveway/ Parking Area	*	*		*	*	*	*
Grading/Exc avation/Land scaing	*	*		*	*	*	*
Tree Removal	*	*		*	*	*	*
Siding/ Roof Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Window/ Door Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Masonry Repair/ Repoint	*	*	*	*	*		*
Signs	*	*	*	*	*		*



DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING SERVICES

Mitra Pedoeem Director

Marc Elrich County Executive

HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT APPLICATION

Application Date: 1/31/2022

Application No: 981848 AP Type: HISTORIC Customer No: 1425582

Comments

We intend to salvage the neglected structure and remodel it into a family home. We are committed to retaining the familiar farmhouse appearance and to keep existing functional material in place or re-purposed on site.

Affidavit Acknowledgement

The Homeowner is the Primary applicant This application does not violate any covenants and deed restrictions

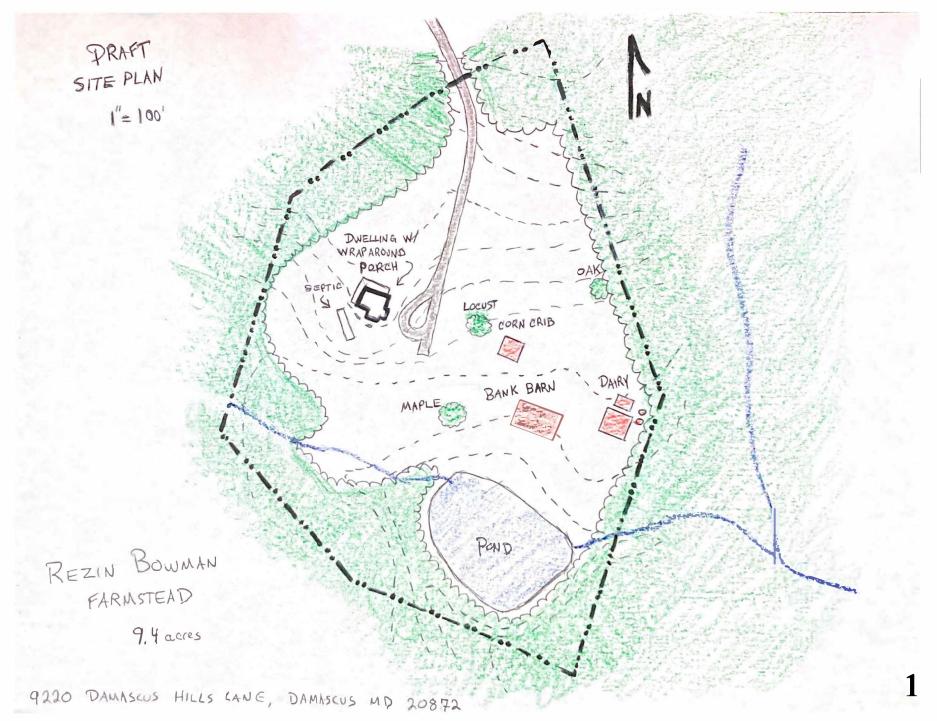
Primary Applicant Information

Address 9220 DAMASCUS HILLS LN DAMASCUS, MD 20872

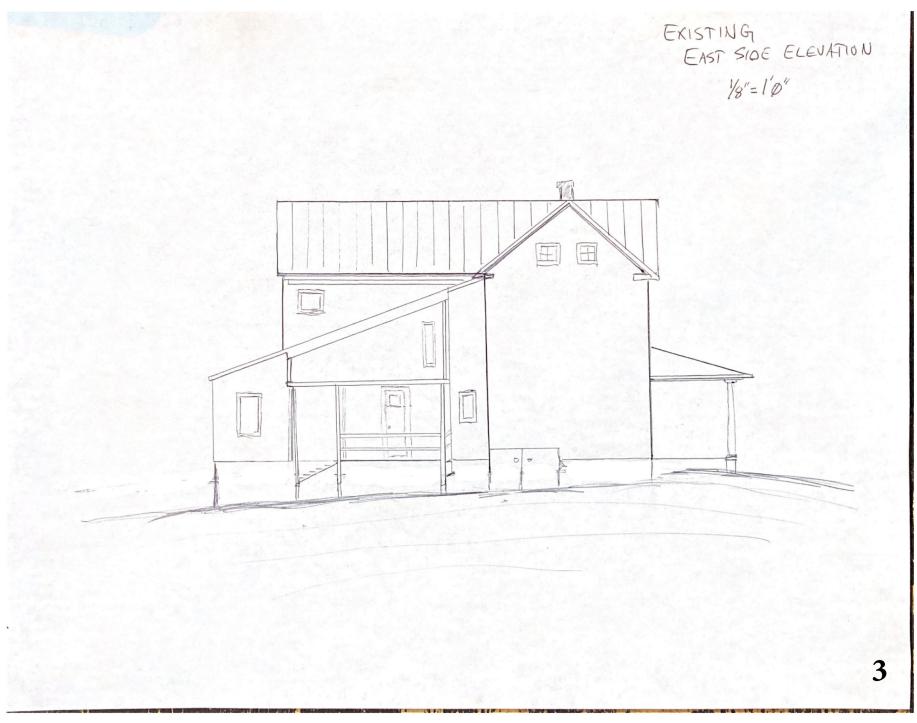
Homeowner Ferenczy (Primary)

Historic Area Work Permit Details

Work TypeALTERScope of WorkThe farmhouse is abandoned, gutted and condemned. It requires complete renovation.

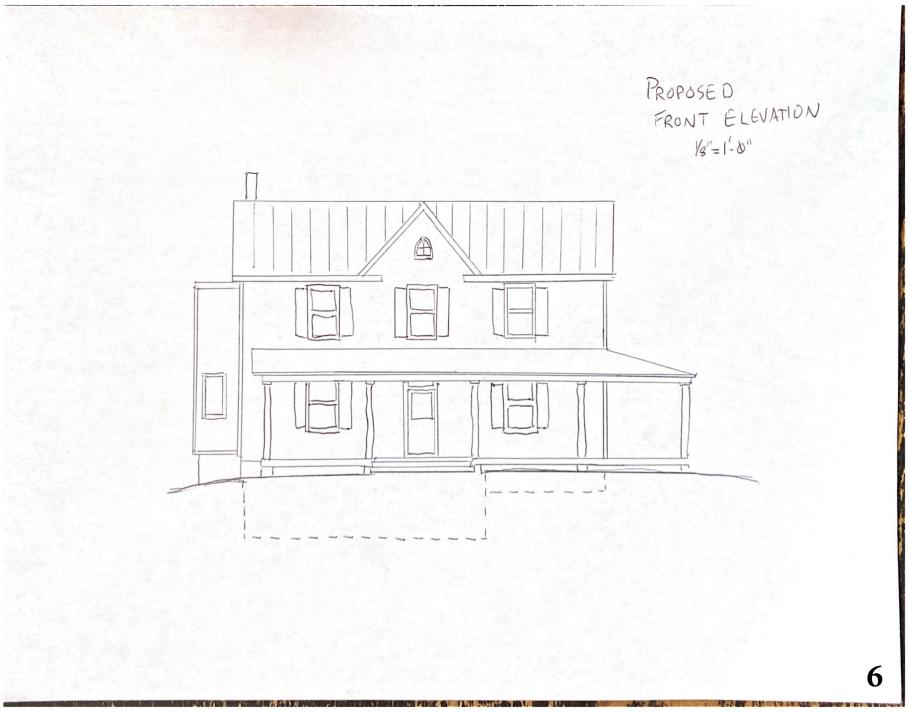


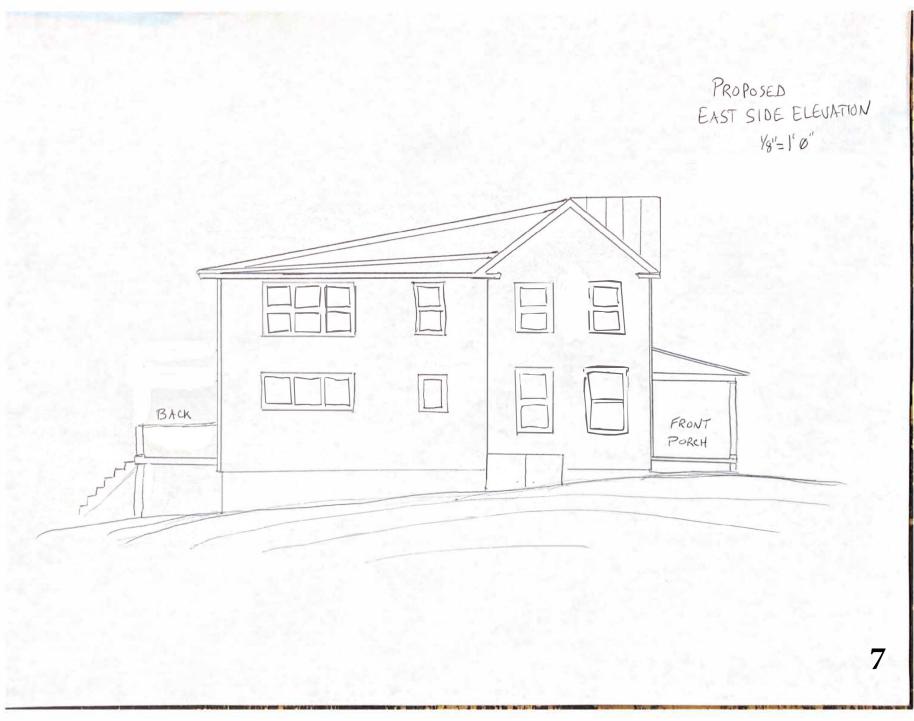


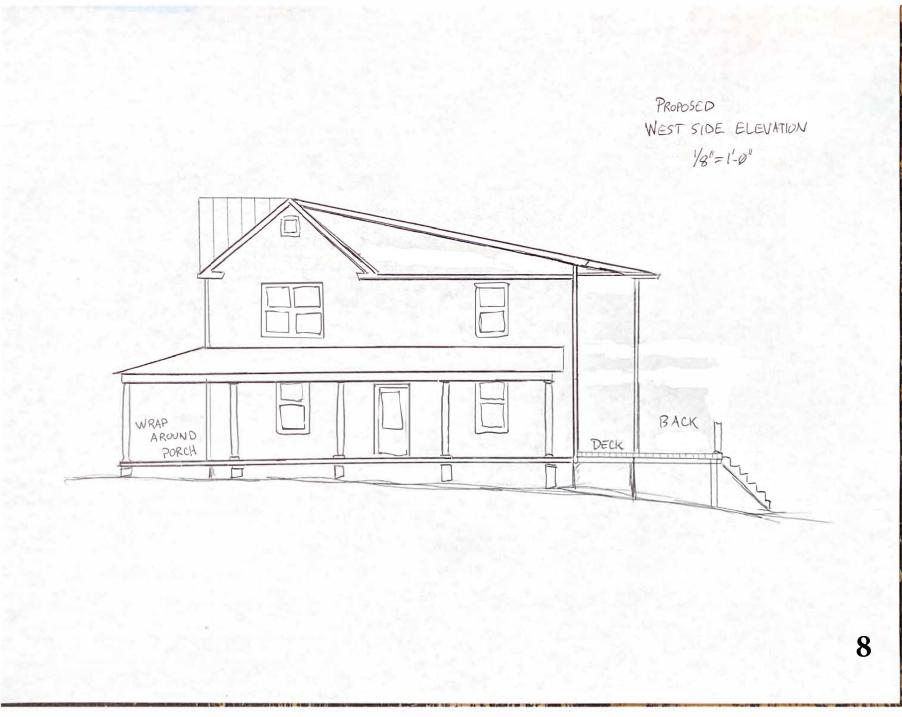


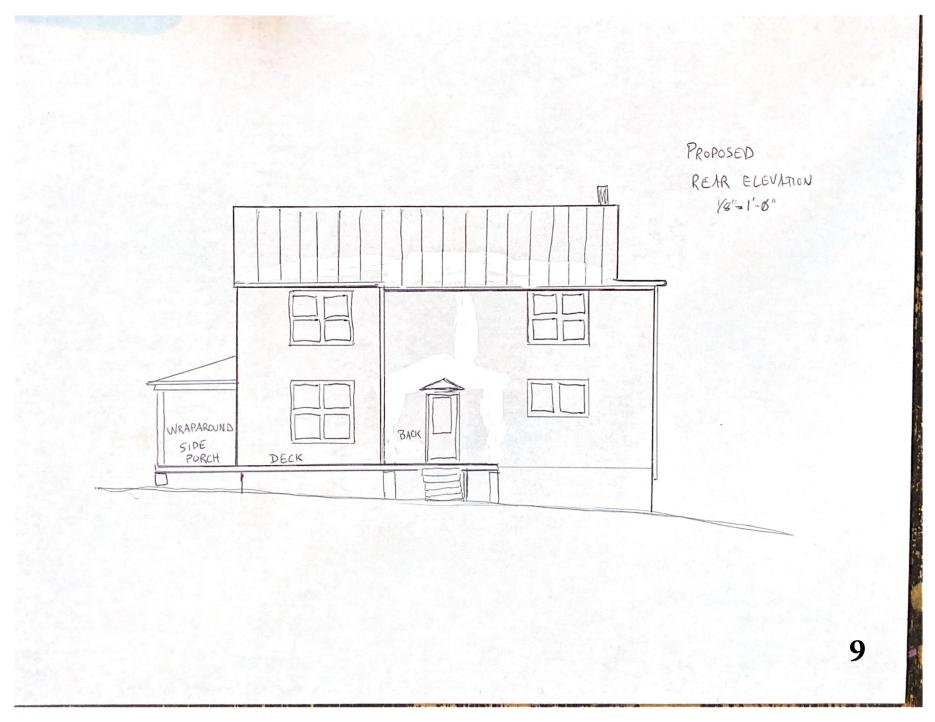


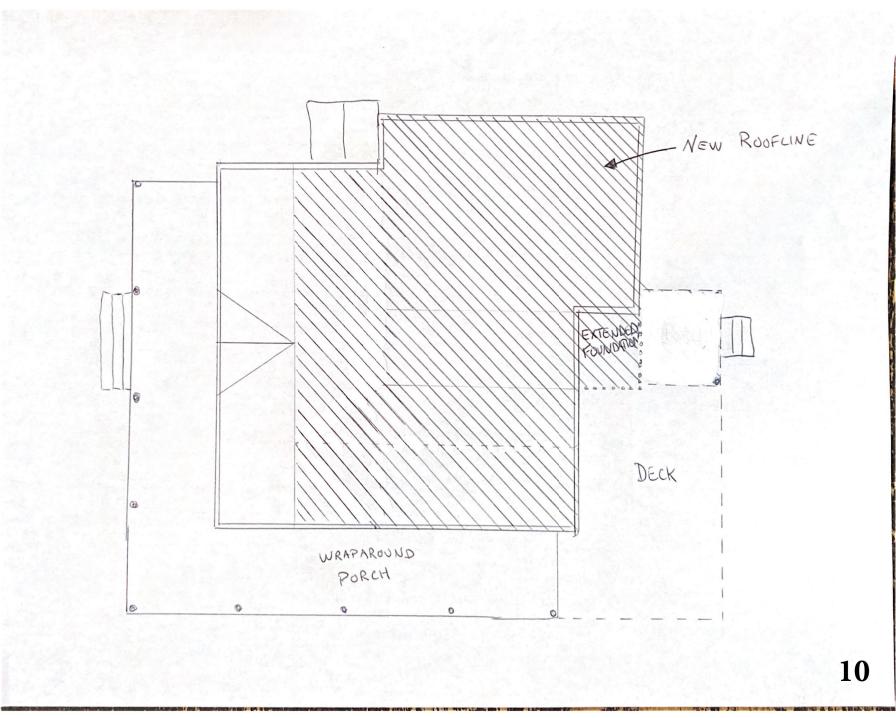


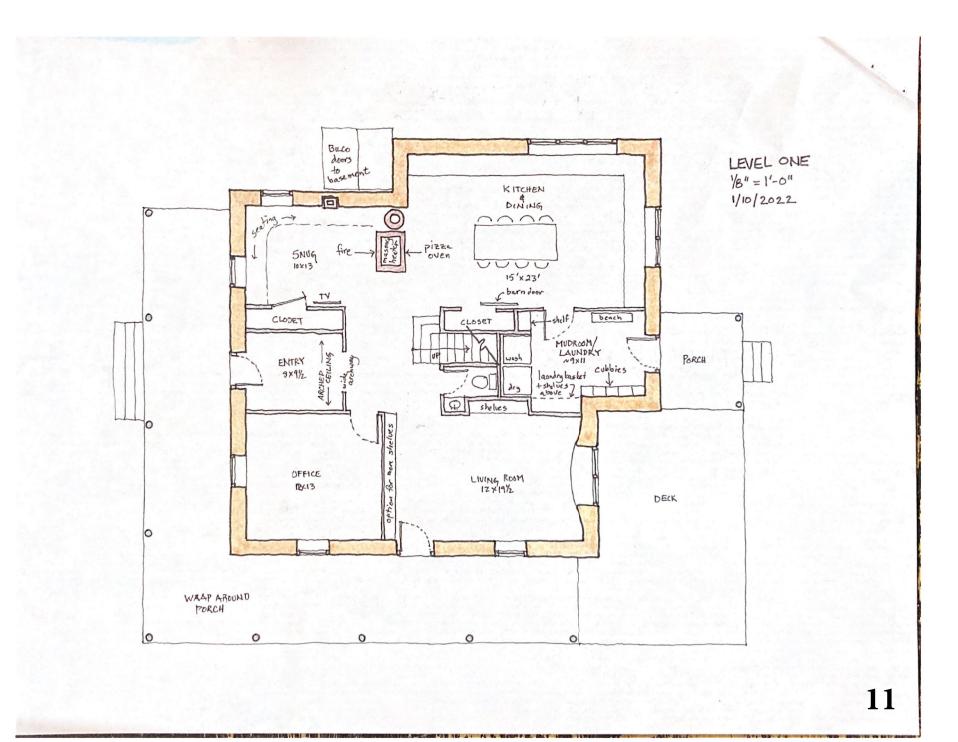


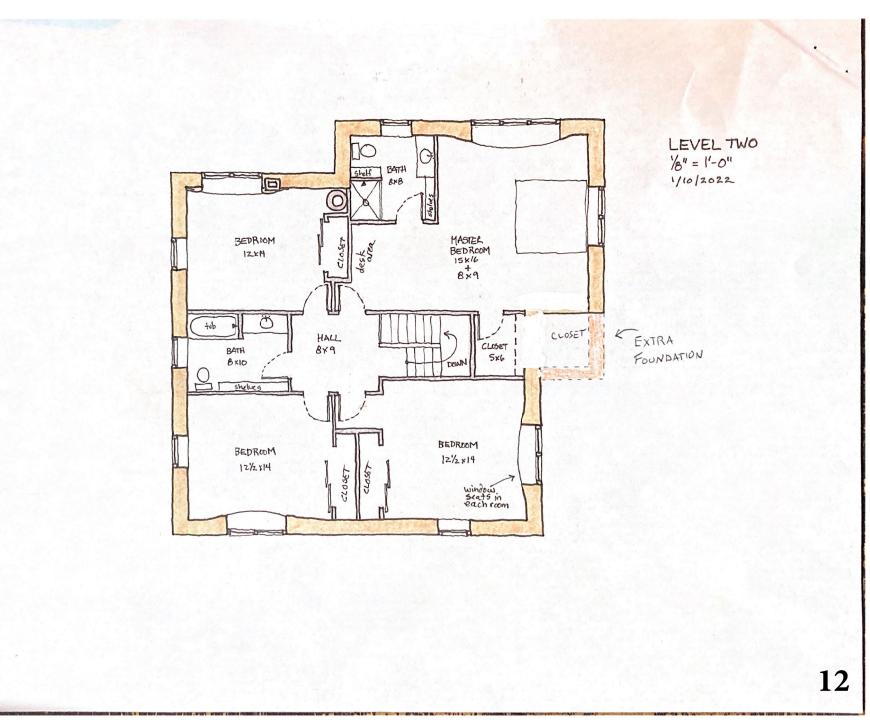












Farmstead front view near top of driveway



Farmstead rear view from below the pond



Dwelling North Front



Dwelling East Side



Dwelling Southeast Side



Dwelling Rear



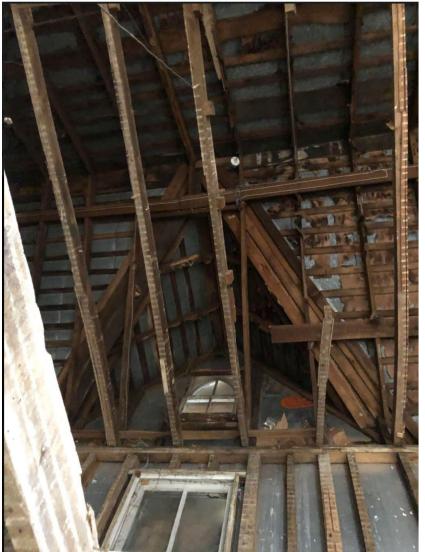
Dwelling Southwest Side

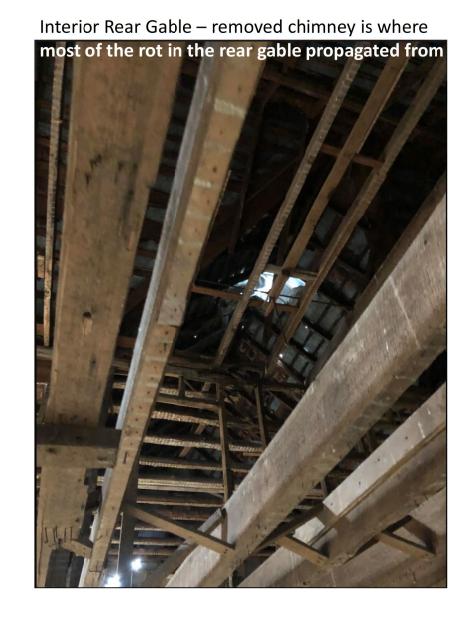


Dwelling West Side









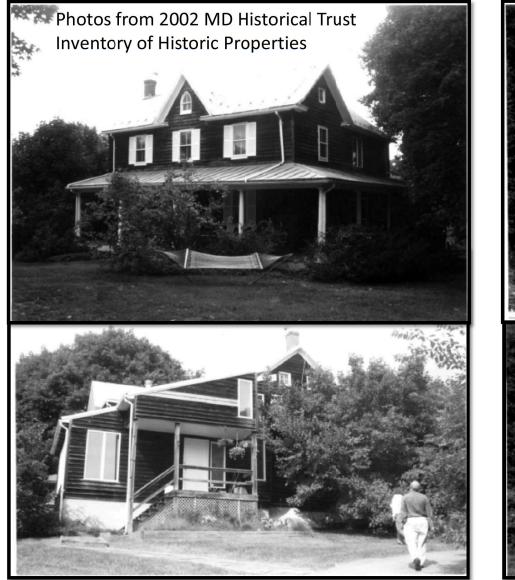
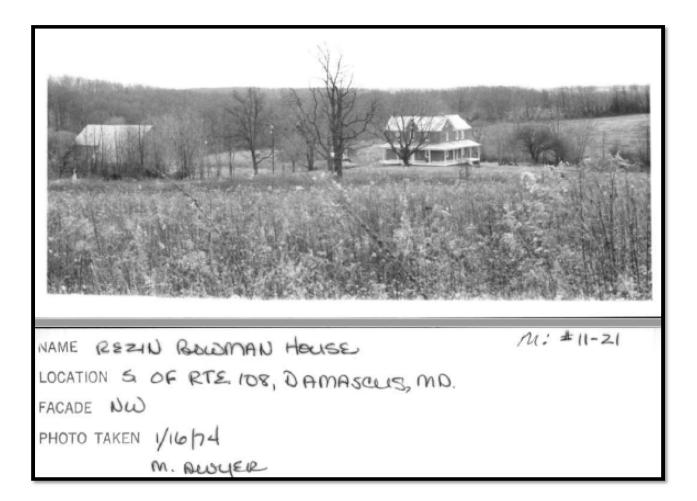




Photo from 1974. These surrounding fields are now dense 30+ year old forest



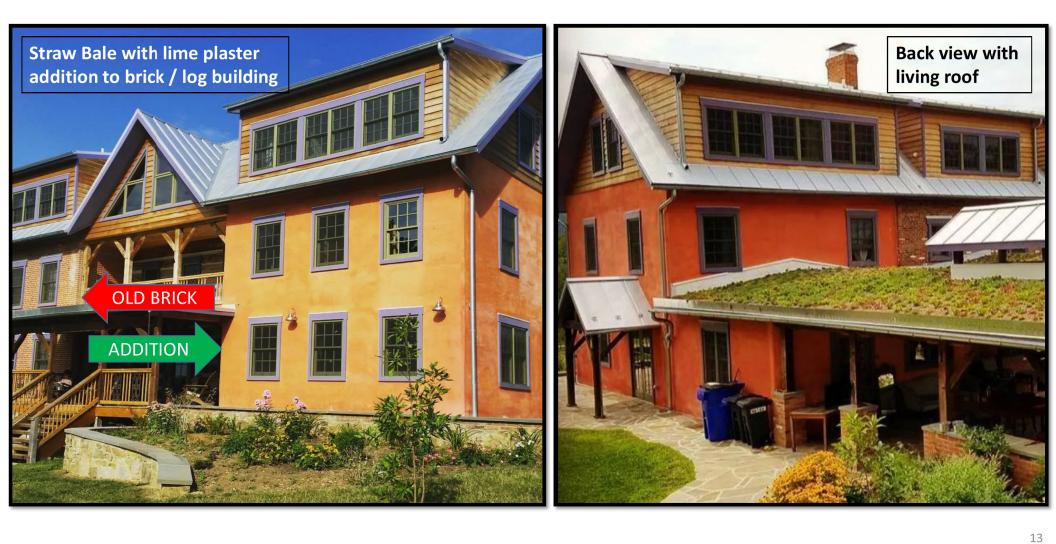
EXAMPLE Natural Built home of timber, straw bales, clay and lime plaster



(1) It starts with the Foundation and Framing



EXAMPLE "Straw Bale" insulated building



EXAMPLE Living Roof on straw bale homes. The living roof is eco-friendly and keeps the roof cool under summer sun



Natural Building material: Clay and lime plaster are traditional surface finish materials used historically with timber, stone and wood on straw walls. Some of the oldest buildings in the world still standing today were built this way.



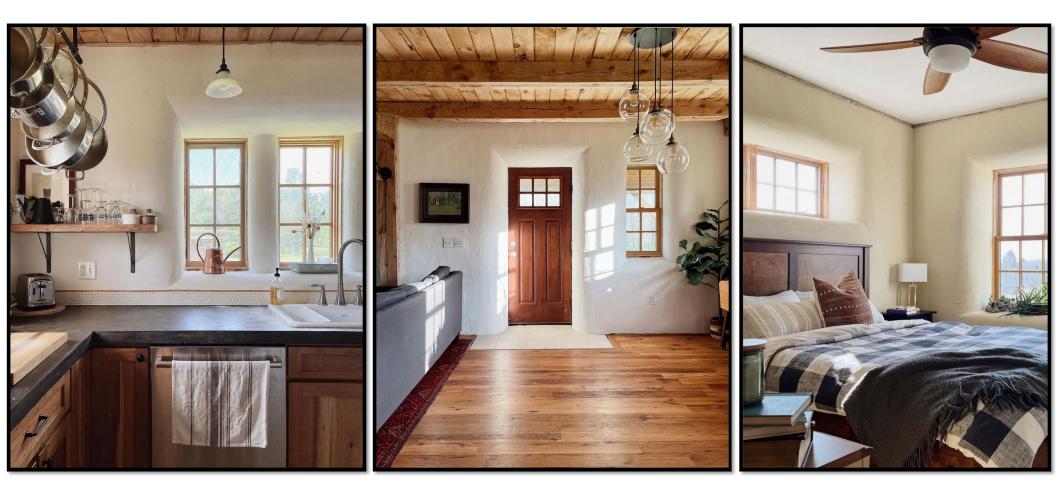
Prepare straw insulation

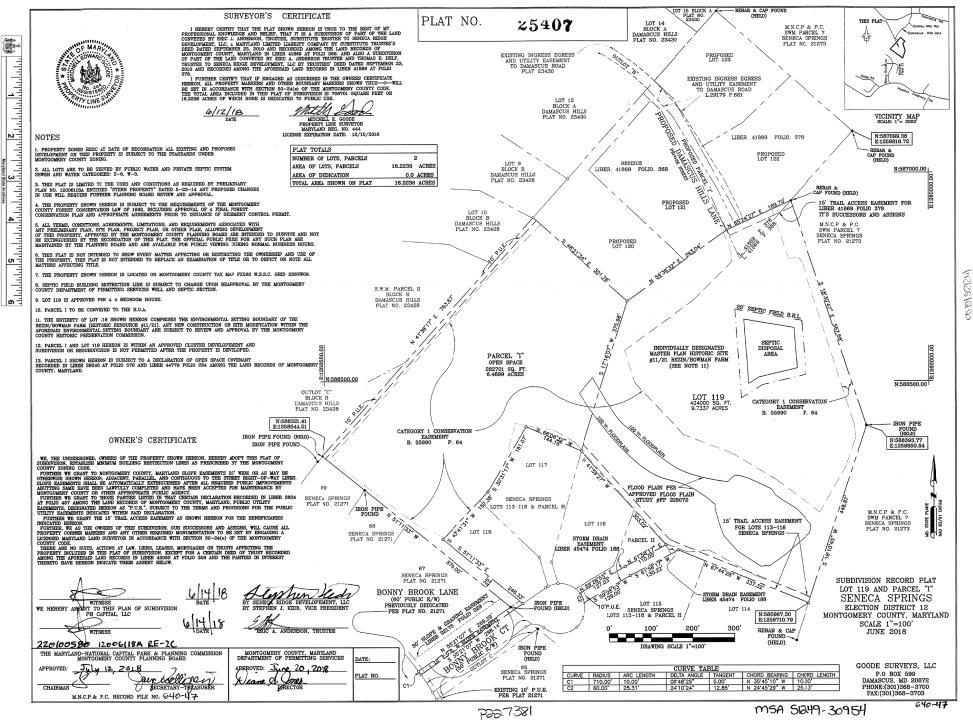
Mix plaster

Apply skim coat

Apply finish coat

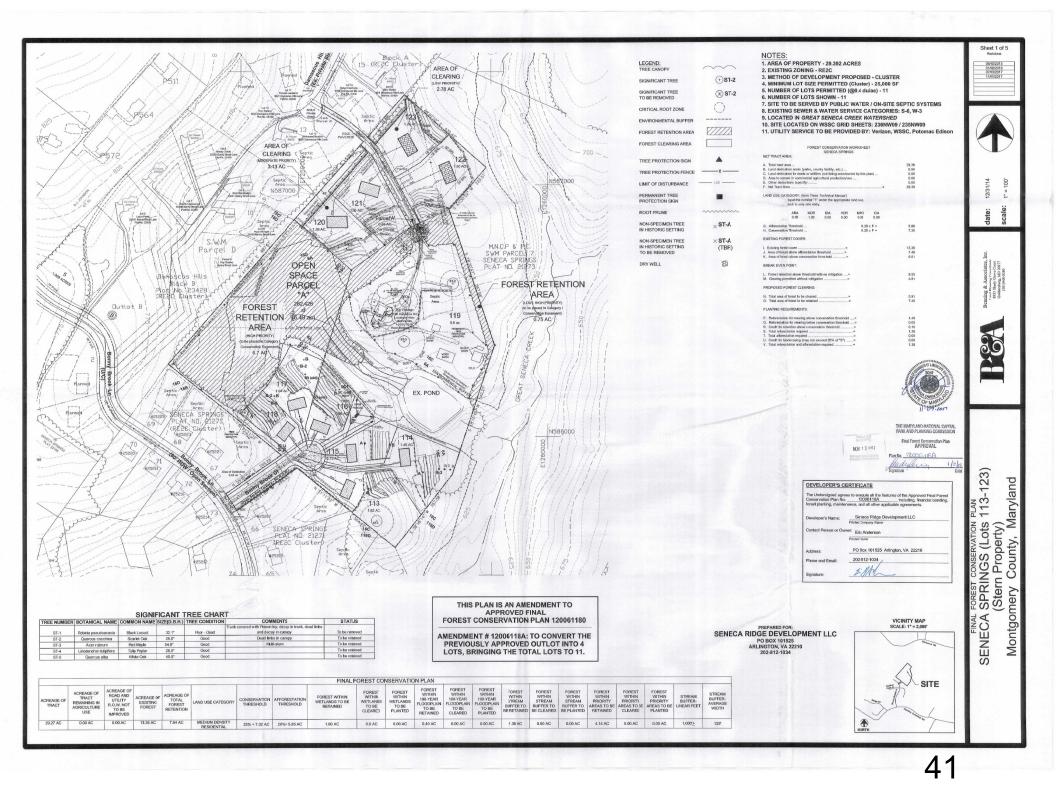
Natural Building material: Straw bale insulation provides deep walls with exceptional insulation. The deep plaster provides thermal mass that reduces temperature swings, as well as a vapor permeable barrier that regulates humidity.

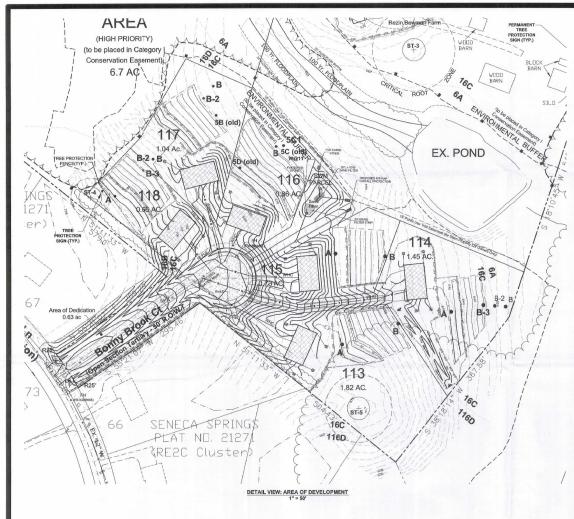




COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT (Subdivision Plats, MO) Plat 25407, MSA_S1249_30954. Date available 2018/07/19. Printed 05/20/202

MONTGON





Sequence of Events for Property Owners Required to Comply With Forest Conservation and/ or **Tree-Save Plans**

Pase-Caretarceliant TA non-naive pre-construction meeting is required after the limits of disturbance have been stated and flagged, but before any clearing or grading begins. The property onner shall constact the Mongeney County Planning Department inspection and there care measures. The the limits of disturbance and discuss the protection ned there care measures. The there expert that the injection of the term planner inspection, and the planner inspection, and Department of Permitting Services (DPE) sediment control inspector inspection pre-contract/commenting.

No clearing or grading shall begin before stress-reduction measures have been implemented. Appropriate measures may include, but are not limited to: b. Crown Reduction or pruning c. Waterring d. Perfilting

d. Fertilizing e. Vertical miching f. Root aerdsion matting Measures not specified on the forest conservation plan may be required as determined by the M-NCPPC inspectiv in coordination with the arborist.

3. A Maryland licensed tree expert or an International Society of Artoriculture confiled antorist must perform alletress reduction measures. Documentation of stress reduction measures must be either desenved by the forest conservation inspector or sitt to the inspector all 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The forest conservation inspector will control uning the determine the each method to convey the stress enductions measures during the

Improvement has been approximately a statistical provides and the sta

- with high visibility flagging. c. 14 gauge 2 inch x 4 inch welded wire fencing supported by steel T-bar posts (minimum 4 feet high) with high visibility flagging.

5. Tomorrow protection services shall be maintained and instability for the contracts for the duration of contractions project and must not be labeling to taken price process them the forest conservation respective. No equipment, huxes, materials, or define may be stored within the three protection free areas adult of the entry construction project. No vehicle or equipment access to the ferenced area will be permitted. They protection shall not be removed without prior approval of the forest conservation inspectir.

Forest retention area signs shall be installed as required by the forest con inspector, or as shown approved plan.

7. Long-term protection devices will be installed per the Forest Conservation Plan/Tree Save Plan and attached details. Installation will occur at the appropriate time during the construction proect. Refer to the plan drawing for long-term protection measures to be installed.

During Construction

Periodic inspectors by the forest conservation inspector will occur during the construction project. Correctons and repairs to all tree protection devices, as istermined by the forest conservation inspector, must be made within the timeframe established by the inspector.

Post-Construction

9. After construction is completed, an inspection shall be requested. Corrective measures may include: a. Removal and replacement of dead and dying trees b. Pruning of dead or dealing filmbs

- c. Soil aeration d. Fertilization e. Watering

f. Wound repair g. Clean up of retention areas

After inspection and completion of corrective measures have been undertaken, all temporary protection devices shall be removed from the site. No additional grading, sodding, or burial may take place.



All field inspections must be requested by the applicant. Inspections must be conducted as follows:

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Tree Save Plans and Forest Conservation Plans without Planting Requirement

1) After the limits of disturbance have been staked and flagged, but before any

After necessary stress reduction measures have been completed and the protection measures have been installed, but before any clearing or grading bosis.

 After completion of all construction activities to determine the level of compliance with the provisions of the forest conservation plan;

Additional Requirements for Plans with Planting Requirements

 Before the start of any required reforestation and afforestation planting
 After required reforestation and afforestation planting has been completed to verify that the planting is acceptable and prior to the start of the maintenance 6) At the end of the maintenance period to determine the level of compliance with the provisions of the planting plan and, if appropriate, release of the performance bond.

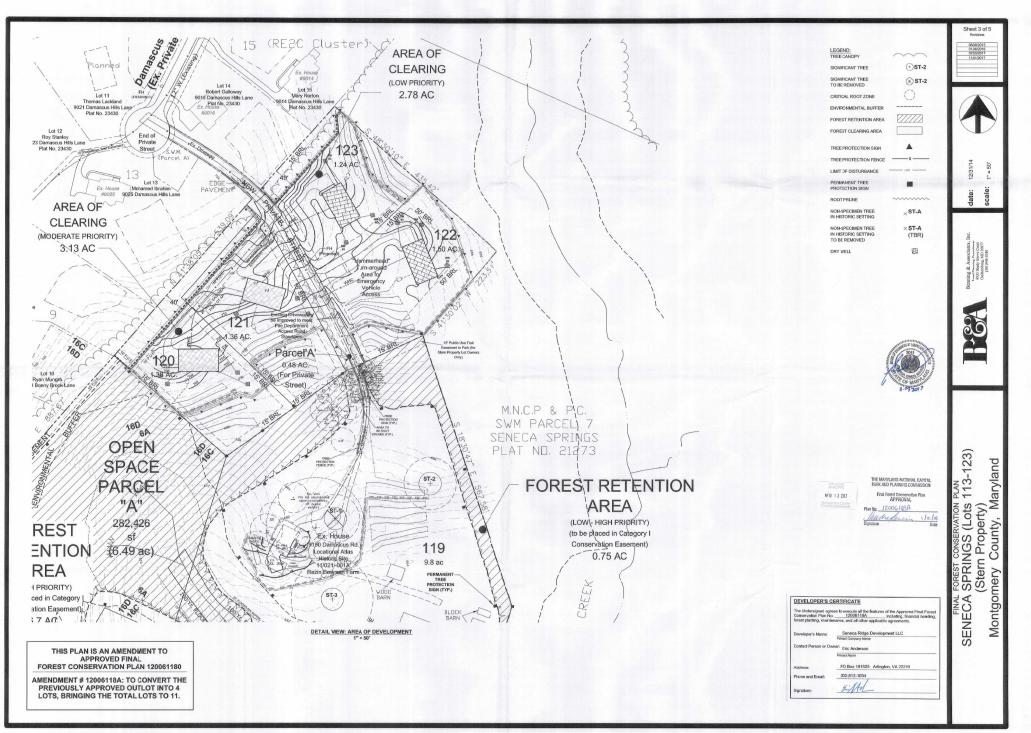


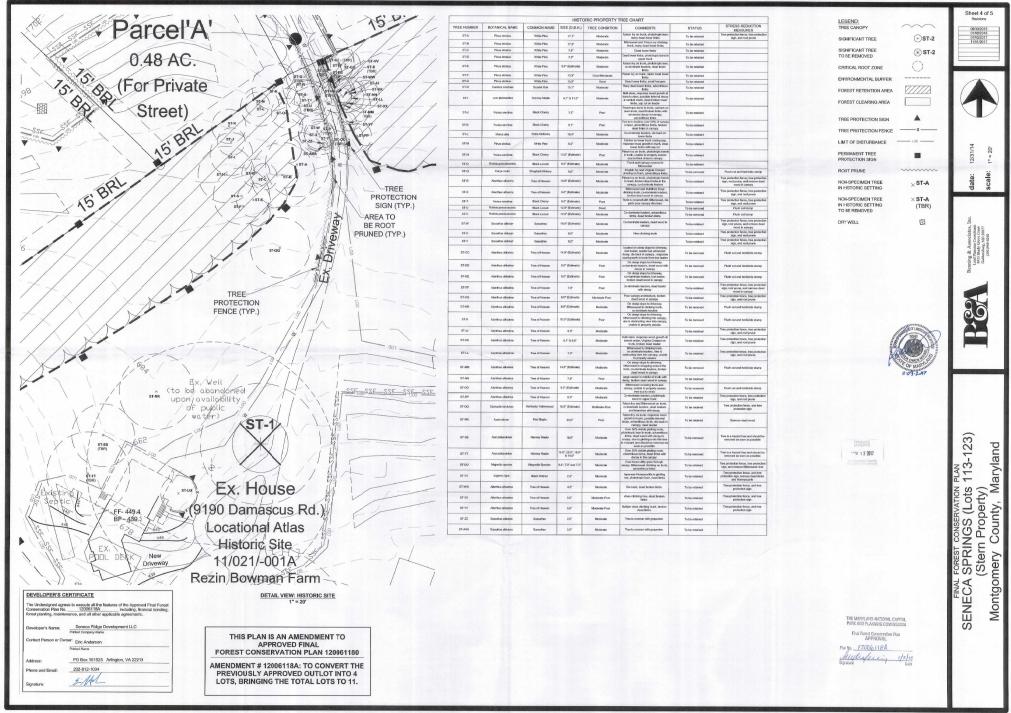
FOREST CONSERVATION PLAN 120061180 AMENDMENT # 12006118A: TO CONVERT THE

Address

Simohur

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED OUTLOT INTO 4 LOTS, BRINGING THE TOTAL LOTS TO 11.





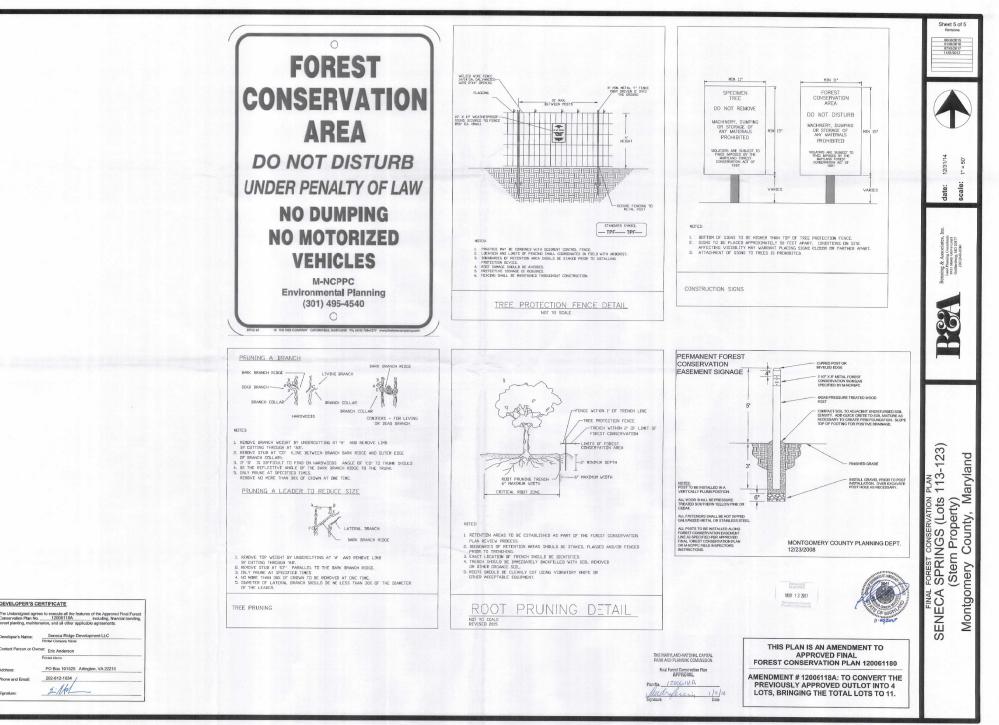
44

Montgomery

20'

-

scale:



DEVELOPER'S CERTIFICATE

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leveloper's Name:

hone and Email:

ignature